# Fragmentation functions of mesons in the Field-Feynman model

Jing  $\mathrm{Hua}^1$  and  $\mathrm{Bo\text{-}Qiang\ Ma}^{2,a}$ 

Department of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

<sup>2</sup> CCAST (World Laboratory), P.O. Box 8730, Beijing 100080, China Department of Physics, Peking University, Beijing 100871, China

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**Abstract.** The fragmentation functions of the pion with distinction between  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$  are studied in the Field-Feynman recursive model, by taking into account the flavor structure in the excitation of quark-antiquark pairs by the initial quarks. The obtained analytical results are compatible with available empirical results. The framework is also extended to predict the fragmentation functions of the kaon with

distinction between  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_u^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ . This work gives a significant modification of the original model, and the predictions can be tested by future experiments on the fragmentation functions of the kaon.

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### 1 Introduction

The productions of mesons are under investigations in various processes nowadays, therefore the fragmentation functions of mesons are among the useful basic quantities in high energy physics studies. A complete knowledge of the quark to meson fragmentation functions with detailed flavor structure is needed and will be more useful. In previous studies, the fragmentation functions of mesons are usually obtained from experimental data on  $e^+e^-$  annihilation process [1]. However, the situation has now been changed because the HERMES collaboration has published results of charge separated data for  $\pi^{\pm}$  production on the proton target [2]. By combining the HER-MES data on semi-inclusive DIS (SIDIS)  $\pi^{\pm}$ -production with the singlet fragmentation function  $D_{\Sigma}^{\pi^+}$ , which is well determined from  $e^+e^-$  data, Kretzer, Leader, and Christova [3] obtained a complete set of fragmentation functions of the pion:  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$ , without specific assumption about relation between favored and unfavored transitions, such as  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = (1-z)D_u^{\pi^+}(z)$  in [4] and  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)=(1-z)^nD_u^{\pi^+}(z)$  (with n=2,3,4) in [5]. The Kretzer-Leader-Christova (KLC) parametrization results of the experimental data are:

$$D_u^{\pi^+}(z) = 0.689z^{-1.039}(1-z)^{1.241}, (1$$

$$D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = 0.217z^{-1.805}(1-z)^{2.037},$$
 (2)

$$D_s^{\pi^+}(z) = 0.164z^{-1.927}(1-z)^{2.886}. (3)$$

Although the evolution behaviors can be calculated perturbatively, the actual form of the fragmentation functions is non-perturbative. Therefore the fragmentation functions are helpful to elucidate the fundamental features of hadronization. The pioneering analysis by Field and Feynman [6,7] provides a simple and lucid picture to understand the fragmentation for a quark into mesons based on a recursive principle, and has stimulated more sophisticated models like the string fragmentation model, implemented in Monte Carlo generation programs [1], as in the Lund model [8]. The Field-Feynman model is successful to parameterize the fragmentation functions of the pion and kaon with only two parameters. However, no distinction between  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$  was made in the original model [6], for the sake to reduce independent parameters ters. With the recent progress of clear distinction between  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$ , it becomes mature and necessary to consider the flavor structure of the unfavored fragmentation functions of mesons in the Field-Feynman model. The purpose of this paper is, for the first time, to make a distinction between  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$  in the Field-Feynman model. It will be shown that this can be realized by adopting the flavor dependent parameters for the excitation of sea quark-antiquark pairs by the initial quarks. We will find that the obtained analytical results for  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$  with only three parameters, are compatible with the recent KLC parametrization Eqs. (1-3) based on experimental results. We will also extend the same framework to the fragmentation functions of the kaon, and show that we can distinguish between  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_u^{K^+}(z)$ ,

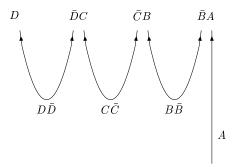
 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm a}$  Email address: mabq@phy.pku.edu.cn; corresponding author.

 $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$  without introducing any additional parameters. Thus the predictions can be tested by future experiments on the fragmentation functions of the kaon.

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. 2, we present a brief review of the Field-Feynman recursive model for the quark to meson fragmentation functions, and make a distinction between the parameters that can introduce the difference between  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$ . In Sec. 3, we adjust the parameters based on the KLC parametrization and the experimental results. We present the analytical results of  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$ , and compare them with the experimental results. In Sec. 4, we extend the framework to the fragmentation functions of the kaon, and make predictions of the four different fragmentation functions  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_u^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ . Finally, we present a summary in Sec. 5.

#### 2 A brief review of the recursive model

The Field-Feynman model [6] of the meson fragmentation is on the basis of a recursive principle, as can be illustrated in Fig. 1. The model ansatz is based on the idea that an incoming quark "A" combines with an antiquark " $\overline{B}$ " from a quark-antiquark pair " $B\overline{B}$ " which is produced from the color field excited by the incoming quark "A". Then the meson " $A\overline{B}$ " is constructed, and is ranked as 1st primary meson. The remaining quark "B" goes on the same way as the quark "A", and combines with " $\overline{C}$ " from a quark-antiquark pair " $C\overline{C}$ " which is excited by the quark "B". It constructs the primary meson " $B\overline{C}$ ", ranked as 2nd primary meson. Then the remaining quark "C" goes on the same way in the remaining cascade.



**Fig. 1.** Illustration of the Field-Feynman recursive model for the fragmentation of mesons. The initial quark A combines with  $\overline{B}$  to form the rank 1 "primary" meson with configuration  $\overline{B}A$ , and the remained quark B goes on the same way as the former quark A.

With  $f(\eta)d\eta$  denoting the probability that the first rank 1 meson leaves a fractional momentum  $\eta$  to the re-

maining cascade, the function  $f(\eta)$  is normalized by

$$\int_0^1 f(z) \mathrm{d}z = 1. \tag{4}$$

Then let F(z)dz be the probability of finding a meson (independent of rank) with fractional momentum z within dz in a quark jet. So F(z) can be written by the recursive principle

$$F(z) = f(1-z) + \int_0^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}\eta}{\eta} f(\eta) F(\frac{z}{\eta}). \tag{5}$$

The first term comes from the ranked 1 primary meson. The second term calculates the probability of the production of a higher rank meson recursively. Field and Feynman [6] found a solution for the above integral equation with

$$zF(z) = f(1-z), (6)$$

by choosing

$$f(z) \equiv (d+1)z^d. \tag{7}$$

With  $\beta_{ij}$  being the probability of finding the  $q_j \overline{q}_j$  pair in the quark sea excited by the initial quark i, the normalization condition imposes that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n_f} \beta_{ij} = 1. \tag{8}$$

Here, we add an i index which does not appear in the original model, and we will find that it is useful. The modification of this model is based on the difference between  $\beta_{uu}$  and  $\beta_{su}$ , which were assumed to be the same in the original Field-Feynman model for the sake to reduce independent parameters. The original model predicts no distinction between  $D_d^{\pi^+}$  and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$ , and the results in [3] show that this is not the realistic situation. Adopting SU(2) symmetry between u and d quarks

$$\beta_{iu} = \beta_{id} \equiv \beta_i, \tag{9}$$

we get

$$\beta_{is} = 1 - 2\beta_i. \tag{10}$$

For an initial quark of flavor q, the mean number of fragmented mesons with configuration  $a\bar{b}$  at z is given, in analogy of Eq. (5), by

$$P_q^{a\overline{b}}(z) = \delta_{aq}\beta_{qb}f(1-z) + \int_z^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}\eta}{\eta} f(\eta)\beta_{qc}P_c^{a\overline{b}}(z/\eta). \tag{11}$$

The mean number of meson states averaged over all quarks is

$$P_{\langle q\rangle}^{a\overline{b}}(z) = \sum_{c} \beta_{qc} P_{qc}^{a\overline{b}}(z), \tag{12}$$

so that

$$P_{\langle q \rangle}^{a\overline{b}}(z) = \beta_{qa}\beta_{qb}f(1-z) + \int_{z}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}\eta}{\eta} f(\eta)\beta_{qc} P_{\langle c \rangle}^{a\overline{b}}(z/\eta). \tag{13}$$

Comparing with Eq. (5), one yields

$$P_{\langle q\rangle}^{a\overline{b}}(z) = \beta_{qa}\beta_{qb}F(z). \tag{14}$$

Substituting it back into Eq. (13), one yields

$$P_q^{a\overline{b}}(z) = \delta_{aq}\beta_{qb}f(1-z) + \beta_{qa}\beta_{qb}\overline{F}(z), \qquad (15)$$

where

$$\overline{F}(z) \equiv F(z) - f(1-z) = (\frac{1}{\tilde{z}} - 1)f(1-z)$$

$$= (d+1)z^{-1}(1-z)^{d+\tilde{1}}.$$
(16)

The fragmentation function is

$$D_q^h(z) = \sum_{ab} \Gamma_{a\overline{b}}^h P_q^{a\overline{b}}(z), \tag{17}$$

where  $\Gamma^h_{a\overline{b}}$  is the probability of a meson h with configuration  $a\overline{b}$ . For example,  $\Gamma^{\pi^+}_{u\overline{d}}=1$  and  $\Gamma^{\pi^0}_{u\overline{u}}=\Gamma^{\pi^0}_{d\overline{d}}=1/2$ . Combining Eqs. (11) and (13), we obtain

$$D_{q}^{h}(z) = A_{q}^{h} f(1-z) + B_{q}^{h} \overline{F}(z), \tag{18}$$

where

$$A_q^h = \sum_b \Gamma_{q\overline{b}}^h \beta_{qb}, \tag{19}$$

$$B_q^h = \sum_{a,b} \beta_{qa} \Gamma_{a\overline{b}}^h \beta_{qb}. \tag{20}$$

Then the fragmentation functions of  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$  can be written as

$$D_u^{\pi^+}(z) = \beta_u f(1-z) + (\beta_u)^2 \overline{F}(z),$$
 (21)

$$D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = (\beta_u)^2 \overline{F}(z), \tag{22}$$

$$D_s^{\pi^+}(z) = (\beta_{su})^2 \overline{F}(z) = (\beta_s)^2 \overline{F}(z), \tag{23}$$

here we adopt the notation  $\beta_s = \beta_{su}$ .

In the original Field-Feynman model, the parameters  $\beta_u$  and  $\beta_s$  are identical:  $\beta_u = \beta_s$ . This means that the effect of producing quark-antiquark pairs excited by the incident s or u quark is assumed to be the same. This leads to the result of  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$ . Indeed, the effect due to the quark mass in the hadronization process strictly speaking cannot be ignored. In other words, the excitation of a quark-antiquark pair by incident quarks with different masses will be different. This can be taken into account by introducing  $\beta_u \neq \beta_s$ , and thus obtain  $D_u^{\pi^+}(z) \neq D_u^{\pi^+}(z)$ . That is, we take into account the difference in the excitation of quark-antiquark pairs by the initial light-flavor (u or d) and strange (s) quarks. Here, SU(2) symmetry is still assumed,  $\beta_{qu} = \beta_{qd} = \beta_q$ .

## 3 The fragmentation functions of the pion

From (21) and (22), two relations can be obtained

$$D_d^{\pi^+}(z)/D_u^{\pi^+}(z) = \frac{\beta_u(1/z - 1)}{(1 - \beta_u + \beta_u/z)},$$
 (24)

$$D_u^{\pi^+}(z) - D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = \beta_u f(1-z). \tag{25}$$

The first relation is independent of f(z), so that it is useful to set the parameter  $\beta_u$ . The parametrization results [3] of  $D_u^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  are used to adjust the parameters. We try to set the value of  $\beta_u$  by plotting  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)/D_u^{\pi^+}(z)$  for the analytical result in this work and the parametrization result by KLC, as shown in Fig. 2. We find that  $\beta_u = 0.46$  in the domain of  $z \in (0.3, 1)$ . We also adopt the option of  $\beta_u = 0.4$ , which was used in the original model  $[\hat{6}]$ , as a comparison. Then plotting the function  $D_u^{\pi^+}(z) - D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  in this work and in the KLC parametrization, we can get d = 1.45 with  $\beta_u = 0.46$ , as shown in Fig. 3. It is surprising that we can get compatible curves by only adjusting the parameters  $\beta_u$  and d at z > 0.3, as  $f(z) = (d+1)z^d$  is only an assumption in the original model. There is no general reason for this choice except for the feasibility of solving the integral equation (5) in an exact way. And now, at some degree, the KLC parametrization results extracted from experimental results without any assumption about favored and unfavored transitions, support the Field-Feyman assumption of f(z) as quite right in the domain of  $z \in (0.3, 1)$ . Substituting  $\beta_u = 0.46$  and d = 1.45 into (21) and (22), we get the analytical results of  $D_u^{\pi^+}(z)$  and  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$ ,

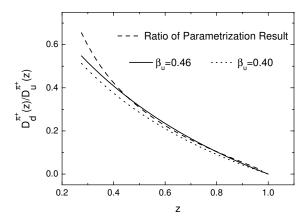
$$D_u^{\pi^+}(z) = 1.127(0.54 + 0.46/z)(1-z)^{1.45},$$
 (26)

$$D_d^{\pi^+}(z) = 0.51842z^{-1}(1-z)^{2.45}. (27)$$

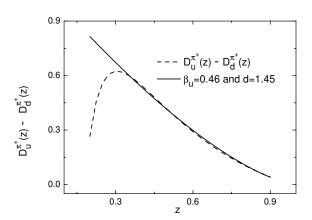
We compare the analytical results of (26) and (27) with the experimental results in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5. It is obvious that the analytical results of (26) and (27) can well explain the experimental results, especially in the domain of  $z \in (0.3, 1)$ .

We now look at the unfavored fragmentation function  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$ , which was predicted to be the same as the unfavored fragmentation function  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  in the original model. We present the experimental results of  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$ and the analytic result (23) of this work in Fig. 6, with the value of  $\beta_s$  adjusted to be 0.38. That means that 38% quark-antiquark pairs in the color field excited by an s quark are the light-flavor  $u\overline{u}$  or  $d\overline{d}$  pairs. Whereas there are 46%  $u\overline{u}$  or  $d\overline{d}$  quark-antiquark pairs excited by a light-flavor u or d quark. We should notice that  $\beta_{ss} \neq \beta_{us}$ , as  $\beta_{ss} = 1 - 2\beta_{su} = 1 - 2\beta_{s} = 0.24$  is the fraction of  $s\overline{s}$  pairs excited by an s quark, whereas  $\beta_{us} = 1 - 2\beta_{uu} = 1 - 2\beta_u = 0.08$  is the fraction of  $s\overline{s}$ pairs excited by a u or d quark. This is quite reasonable, considering that there should be more fraction of  $s\bar{s}$  pairs excited by an s quark than that by a light-flavor (u or d)quark. Therefore we have

$$D_s^{\pi^+}(z) = 0.35378z^{-1}(1-z)^{2.45}. (28)$$



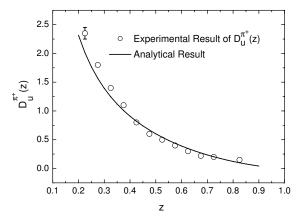
**Fig. 2.** The dash curve is the ratio of  $D_d^{\pi^+}/D_u^{\pi^+}$  from the KLC parametrization [3], and the solid and dot curves are the analytical results of this work with two different values of  $\beta_u$ .



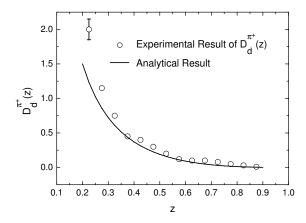
**Fig. 3.** The dash curve is  $D_u^{\pi^+} - D_d^{\pi^+}$  from the KLC parametrization [3], and the solid curve is  $\beta_u(d+1)(1-z)^d$  (Eq. (25)) with  $\beta_u = 0.46$  and d = 1.45.

If we choose  $\beta_s = 0.46$ ,  $D_s^{\pi^+}(z)$  is identical to  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$ , and we return back to the original model.

We present in Fig. 7 our analytical results for a complete set of fragmentation functions of the pion with distinction between  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$ , and compare them with the KLC parametrization results. We find that the two sets of fragmentation functions are compatible with each other, especially at z>0.3. Considering that a large uncertainty may exist in the parametrization of the unfavored fragmentation function  $D_d^{\pi^+}(z)$  at small z, we may consider the analytical results in this work as an alternative set of fragmentation functions for possible applications, for example, to check the sensitivity on different fragmentation functions in the predictions of various pion fragmentation processes [5].



**Fig. 4.** The circles are the experimental results from [3], and the solid curve is the analytical result of this work.



**Fig. 5.** The circles are the experimental results from [3], and the solid curve is the analytical result of this work.

One notices from Figs. 2 and 3 that the analytical results differ by those obtained by KLC in the small z region, as also happens for the analytical results and the experimental data in Figs. 4 and 5. This feature is easy to be understood, as the sea content of the meson has not been taken into account in the Field-Feynman model. The small z behaviors of the fragmentation functions are also influenced by the sea quark-antiquark pairs inside the meson [9]. Thus it is necessary to consider this aspect if one wishes to describe the small z behaviors of fragmentation functions with a more reasonable picture.

## 4 The fragmentation functions of the kaon

We now apply the same framework to the fragmentation functions of the kaon. Following the same procedures, we can get

$$D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z) = \beta_s f(1-z) + \beta_s (1-2\beta_s) \overline{F}(z), \qquad (29)$$

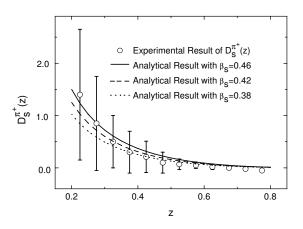


Fig. 6. The circles are the experimental results from [3], and the three curves show three analytical results of this work with different  $\beta_s$ . It goes back to the original Field-Feynman model when  $\beta_s = \beta_u = 0.46$ .

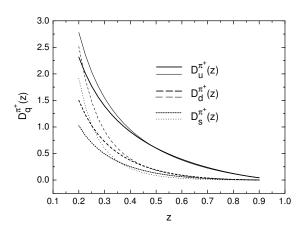


Fig. 7. The fragmentation functions of the pion with distinction between  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$ , The thick curves are the analytical results of this work, and the thin curves are the KLC parametrization results [3].

$$D_u^{K^+}(z) = (1 - 2\beta_u)f(1 - z) + \beta_u(1 - 2\beta_u)\overline{F}(z), \quad (30)$$

$$D_s^{K^+}(z) = \beta_s (1 - 2\beta_s) \overline{F}(z), \qquad (31)$$

$$D_d^{K^+}(z) = D_{\overline{u}}^{K^+}(z) = D_{\overline{d}}^{K^+}(z) = \beta_u (1 - 2\beta_u) \overline{F}(z),$$
 (32)

where  $\beta_s = \beta_{su}$ ,  $\beta_u = \beta_{uu}$ , and  $\beta_{qs} = 1 - 2\beta_q$ . With the parameters  $\beta_u = 0.46$ ,  $\beta_s = 0.38$ , and d = 0.381.45 being the same as for the pion, we get a complete set of fragmentation functions of the kaon

$$D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z) = 0.931(0.76 + 0.24/z)(1-z)^{1.45}, \tag{33}$$

$$D_u^{K^+}(z) = 0.196(0.54 + 0.46/z)(1-z)^{1.45}, (34)$$

$$D_s^{K^+}(z) = 0.22344z^{-1}(1-z)^{2.45}, (35)$$

$$D_d^{K^+}(z) = 0.09016z^{-1}(1-z)^{2.45}. (36)$$

These analytical results of the fragmentation functions of the kaon are plotted in Fig. 8 with four independent curves:  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_u^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ . There should be only three independent curves without the difference between  $\beta_u$  and  $\beta_s$ , e.g.,  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$  equals to  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ as in the original model. In principle, the flavor structure of the kaon fragmentation functions is more complicated than that of the pion, as revealed by the Field-Feynman model. However, some available parametrizations [10,11, 12,13] usually make only distinction between the favored fragmentation functions, which are related to the valence quarks of the kaon, and the unfavored fragmentation functions, which are related to the light-flavor sea quarks of the kaon.

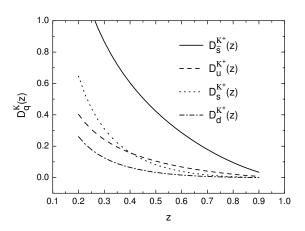
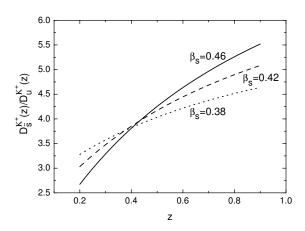


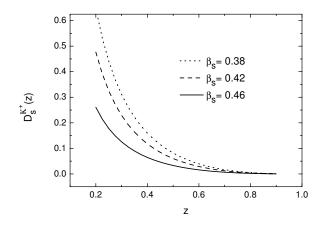
Fig. 8. The fragmentation functions of the kaon in this work with distinction between  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_{u}^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_{s}^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ .

The effect of introducing  $\beta_s \neq \beta_u$  might be small in the fragmentation functions of the pion, but it is amplified in the fragmentation functions of the kaon. It does not only introduce the difference between the unfavored fragmentation functions  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$  and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ , but also causes modification to the favored fragmentation functions  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$ . In Fig. 9, we plot the ratio of the favored fragmentation functions:  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)/D_u^{K^+}(z)$ . The curve with  $\beta_s = 0.42$  is adopted as an alternative option for comparison, and the effect of  $\beta_s$  on the unfavored fragmentation function is illustrated in Fig. 10. The curve with  $\beta_s = 0.46$  is the result in the original model, where  $\beta_s = \beta_u = 0.46$ . Therefore we notice a significant modification to the favored fragmentation function  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)$  in comparison with that in the original model. We also plot the prediction of the unfavored fragmentation function  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and find that it differs from  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$  significantly. These predictions can be tested by future experiments, such as the semi-inclusive kaon productions in deep inelastic scattering by the HER-MES collaboration and the CLAS collaboration et al.. The



**Fig. 9.** These three curves give the ratio between the favored fragmentation functions  $D_{\overline{s}}^{K^+}(z)/D_u^{K^+}(z)$  in this work. It goes back to the original Field-Feynman model when  $\beta_s = \beta_u = 0.46$ .

parameters used in this work can be also constrained by further detailed studies, or the framework should be extended to more general situation with more sophisticated aspects taken into account.



**Fig. 10.** These three curves show the unfavored fragmentation function  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$  with different  $\beta_s$  in this work. It goes back to the original Field-Feynman model when  $\beta_s = \beta_u = 0.46$ .

# 5 Summary

In summary, we analyzed the fragmentation functions of both the pion and kaon in the Field-Feynman recursive model with significant modification. By taking into account the difference between the excitation of sea quarkantiquark pairs by the initial light-flavor (u or d) and

strange (s) quarks, we can distinguish between  $D_u^{\pi^+}$ ,  $D_d^{\pi^+}$ , and  $D_s^{\pi^+}$  in the Field-Feynman model with only three parameters. The analytical results obtained are compatible with available empirical results, and can be served as an alternative set of completed fragmentation functions of the pion. We also extended the same framework to the kaon, and provided a new set of fragmentation functions of the kaon with clear distinction between  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_u^{K^+}(z)$ ,  $D_s^{K^+}(z)$ , and  $D_d^{K^+}(z)$ . Thus this work provides the fragmentation functions of the pion and kaon with a same set of only three parameters. The predictions can be tested by future experiments on the fragmentation functions of the pion and kaon.

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